

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/619,553

Examiner

Ramsey Refai

Applicant(s)

PTASINSKI ET AL.

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed August 8, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22 and 43-64.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Ramsey Refai
BUNIOB SAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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Reasons for Allowance

Responsive to Amendment received August 8, 2006. Claims 1, 3-5, 10-17, 21, 22, 43, 45-47, 52-59, 63, and 64 were amended. Claims 23-42 were previously canceled. Claims 1-22 and 43-64 remain pending.

1. Claims 1-22 and 43-64 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest individually or in combination a method of verifying connectivity between a first node and one or more network nodes, comprising: providing indications of elapsed periodic time intervals at the first node, transmitting a first link integrity indication frame to the one or more network nodes, the first link integrity indication frame including a source identifier that uniquely identifies the first node; counting elapsed periodic time interval indications subsequent to the transmitting of the first link integrity indication frame to produce a count for the first node, receiving frames from the one or more network nodes and maintaining during each periodic time interval, a node state status and a current received frame source identifier; determining the node state status upon the expiration of a predetermined elapsed time based on the count for the first node; transmitting a second link integrity indication frame based upon determining the node state status as being indicative of not having received frames from a plurality of the network nodes during the predetermined elapsed time; and resetting the count for the first node as a result of transmitting the second link integrity indication frame

3. Independent claims 12, 43, and 54 contain similar limitations as claim 1, therefore are allowed for similar reasons as stated above.

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4- Claims 2-11, 13-22, 44-53, and 55-64 depend on independent claims 1, 12, 43, and 54, therefore are allowed for similar reasons as their respective independent claim.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled " Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramsey Refai whose telephone number is (571) 272-3975. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Ramsey Refai
Examiner
Art Unit 2152
October 25, 2006



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER